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NSC BRIEFING

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TURKISH INTERNAL SITUATION

- I. Tension and bitterness between Turkish government and opposition continues to rise dangerously.
 - A. What started as a personal feud between Premier Menderes and President Bayar on one side and Ismet Inonu on other has become a constitutional struggle with unpredictable consequences.
 - B. Demonstrations against government begun by students have increased in size and now contain many non-students.
 1. This is how overwhelming pressures grew in South Korea.
- II. Growing participation by military, exemplified by march of military cadets in Ankara on 21 May, is serious blow to Menderes regime.
 - A. Reports indicate increasing antagonism between police and military in both Ankara and Istanbul. Police have roughed up several army officers and army has reciprocated.
 - B. Senior army officers on active duty are largely indebted to Menderes for appointments and will probably remain loyal to government for present.
 - C. Increasing numbers of junior and middle grade officers, previously dissatisfied at economic squeeze, are joining with retired senior officers--loyal to Inonu--in civilian-led demonstrations against government.
- III. Key to future rests with Menderes. Opposition Republican Peoples Party (RPP) has adopted wait-and-see attitude for present.

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- A. Menderes may try conciliation by calling for early elections, removing certain officials of his government, or by abolishing the immediate cause of the disorders--the parliamentary commission investigating opposition.
1. Opposition shows some fear that Premier will call elections while it weakened by government repression. Menderes, however, unlikely to have elections unless sure of winning and his recent loss of support throughout country thus makes honest elections unlikely. Any rigging of election would lead to serious disorders.
 2. Menderes could remove Minister of Interior and Director General of National Police--generally blamed by population for severe repressive measures.
 - a. These moves may be forced on Menderes by members of his own party.
 3. Opposition probably would not be reconciled by either move but would continue to demand Menderes step down.
- B. There is evidence that Menderes does not realize true extent of popular discontent. Such misjudgment could lead to new moves by Premier which will cause further deterioration of security situation and force army to take over.

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